

May 2, 1975

SENATOR MURPHY: Well I would like to think that we had 100 percent, Senator, but the bank across the street will make darn sure that we have nothing like 100 percent. We have nothing like 100 percent, I assure you.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Senator Murphy, that was a very fine answer to my question. Now I'd make some comments. First of all, the issue has become clouded. Senator Murphy has managed to do that. He's read bits and pieces of Calvin Coolidge, Herbert Hoover and John D. Rockefeller. He's rolled them all into the original plagiarism, I guess you could call it, and came before us and said that anytime you raise corporate taxes you run jobs out of Nebraska. Obviously, that's not true. We have the lowest rate and I still don't see them knocking the door down to get in. Must be something else. Senator Murphy has suggested that the consumer pays for it anyway. The consumer pays for it anyway is what Senator Murphy said. He says that you take the taxes and you add them on, regardless of the profit. I know that's not true and you know that's not true. Northwestern Bell can't operate that way. That was brought out by Senator Murphy yesterday. There's a \$16 million request over there. I hope that that request is geared to a reasonable profit level. I'm sure it is. I think that we all need to understand that. The question before us is a fair distribution of taxes. Corporations should pay taxes. Certainly the comparison to Sweden is not what we're trying to do with this tax today. People should pay their fair share. Obviously the fair share is not being paid. I hope that people remember this issue. Corporate taxes, in this state, are down a full 1/3 from 4 years ago. I want people to go home and tell the people in their district that. The argument being advanced here is that we don't want to scare corporations off. We want to give them tax advantages. We want to make sure they have no taxes so that the people can pay the taxes, so that the people can pay more income taxes, so they can pay more sales tax, so they can pay more property tax. I want the people in those districts to remember those who advocated that, because that's the issue. The issue here is trying to look at the tax resources available to us and see what we can do with it. Senator Murphy says there's only one available to us and that's to the people. That's the ones that we want to tax. Obviously we have a revenue problem this time. We have programs to take care of. One of the pressing programs, of course, is property tax relief which is the most serious problem in terms of taxation in this state. Nebraska ranks number 3 in per capita income paid as far as taxation is concerned on property. Senator Mahoney has pointed out a solution. If we could take the \$10 million raised by corporate income tax, that could be converted to state aid to education. That's a viable solution. That's a viable source of revenue. I hope that's heard loud and clear that that revenue could be available to take care of that, to pass a property tax relief onto the people of this state. The proposal made by Senator Keyes is a good one. It's a graduated one. It says let's take corporate taxes back where they were four years ago. Let's let them pay their way. This is not an anti-corporation bill. This is not an anti-corporation speech. We're saying that the tax distribution now is totally unfair, totally out of kilter, totally unacceptable. The big boys have sent others in to say, 'now wait a minute